CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a multimedia system for activate and deactivate a plurality of multimedia applications, the method comprising:

monitoring a two-level switch, wherein the switch is activated by depressing the switch;

determining whether the switch has been depressed;

determining whether the multimedia system is active;

activating the multimedia system if the system is not active and the switch has been depressed;

determining a time duration the switch has been depressed;

de-energizing the multimedia system when the switch has been depressed for a predefined time duration; and

deactivating one of the plurality of multimedia system applications when the switch has been depressed for less than the predefined time duration.

- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message on a display screen indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has been deactivated.
- 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message on a display screen indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has been activated.
- 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message on a display screen indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has failed to deactivate.

- 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message on a display screen indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has failed to activate.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle phone system.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle navigational system.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle stereo system.
- 9. A system for controlling a multimedia system to activate and deactivate a plurality of multimedia applications, the system comprising:
 - a depressible switch; and
- a controller in communication with the switch for determining a length of time the switch has been depressed, wherein the depression of the switch for a period of time greater than a predefined threshold deactivates the multimedia system and wherein the depression of the switch for a period of time less than the predefined threshold deactivates one of the plurality of multimedia system applications.
- 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the controller further comprises an electronic memory for storing executable code for determining the period of time the switch is depressed.
- 11. The system of claim 9, further comprising a display screen for displaying a message indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has been deactivated.

- 12. The system of claim 9, further comprising a display screen for displaying a message indicating that the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications has failed to activate.
- 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle phone system.
- 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle navigational system.
- 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the one of the plurality of multimedia system applications is an in-vehicle stereo system.